

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1971

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *A*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT:

Southeast Asian Operational
Status

Laos

Operation LAM SON 719:

The enemy continued to maintain pressure through ground and fire attacks.

- North of Route 9, enemy forces supported by a number of tanks penetrated a Fire Support Base manned by ARVN airborne troops during the evening of February 25-26 (see map).
- ARVN elements remain in the area, however, and reinforcements are moving to the scene. Casualty reports are not available, although eight enemy tanks were reported destroyed in the area.
- A few miles to the east, a second ARVN fire support base came under heavy enemy fire on February 26 and also reported a number of enemy tanks in the vicinity (see map). Tactical aircraft are on station in support of the ARVN position.
- South of Route 9 elements of the ARVN 3rd Regiment repulsed an enemy ground attack on February 25, killing 45 without sustaining any losses (see map). An additional ARVN battalion has now reinforced this position.

25X1

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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- The North Vietnamese not only have moved substantial forces into the area, but they also seem to have selved the cautious, economical style of fighting that has been the hallmark of Communist forces for most of the past two years.
- Recent enemy frontal attacks leave little doubt that Hanoi is willing to commit large numbers of regular forces to battle even though the Communists realize the costs will be high.
- Cumulative enemy KIA's are 2,561; ARVN KIA 278 and U.S. KIA 67.

Cambodia

Operation Toan Thang 01/71:

ARVN forces engaged the enemy in one sharp clash while carrying out scheduled sweep operations.

- ARVN Rangers killed 87 enemy east of the Chup plantation without sustaining any losses.
- Two other minor clashes resulted in six ARVN and 10 enemy KIA. Cumulative KIA total 204 ARVN and 1,814 enemy.
- Some 17,900 ARVN troops are now participating in the Cambodian operation.

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